

NEWS OF THE DAY.

"To show the very age and body of the times."

A partial reorganization of the cabinet is talked of in Washington. The probable retirement of Mr. Seward, is mentioned. Mr. Adams, Minister to England, is spoken of as his successor. The withdrawal of Mr. Stanton from the cabinet is again revived. With Gen. Grant as his successor, as Acting Secretary of War. In addition, it is expected that Mr. Stanton will be offered the mission to Russia, or probably the mission to Spain.

At present the Susquehanna is said to be swarming with wild fowls, and sportsmen are reaping a harvest at different points along the river. At Middletown as high as sixteen pairs were shot by one person, one day last week. They are selling from fifty to seventy-five cents a pair. Canvas backs and mallards are scarce, and worth from one dollar to one dollar and fifty cents per pair.

John W. Bronaugh, Charles H. Cragin and Leonard L. Clements, have been appointed by the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia, to make a registry of the voters in Georgetown. These appointments were made in accordance with the act of Congress, which was approved on the 5th instant.

The persons who have been for some days engaged in efforts to bring about an adjustment of the reconstruction differences between Congress and the Southern people upon the third section of the proposed amendment to the constitution, are still prosecuting their work with members of Congress.

The Executive Mansion in Washington has been thoroughly renovated, at a cost of nearly \$10,000. The east room, the blue, green and red rooms have been refurnished with new carpets and curtains, specially imported from Europe.

The grand jury of the Court of Oyer and Terminer of New York have reported that gift lotteries are public nuisances. All persons concerned in such enterprises are duly warned.

Rev. Mr. Veitch, presiding elder of the Winchester district of the E. M. Church, is lying dangerously ill at his residence at Winchester, Va.

ORANGE & ALEXANDRIA & MANASSAS GAP R. R.—In the Senate, of Virginia, on Saturday, on motion of Mr. Meade, Senate bill No. 125, to authorize the transfer of the property, charter and franchises of the Manassas Gap Railroad Company and the stock and shares in the same to the Orange and Alexandria Railroad Company, was taken up, read the first time and ordered to a second reading.

On the further motion of Mr. Meade (two thirds concurring) it was read the second time; when Mr. Keen moved to amend the bill by striking out the 5th section, which gives the proposed consolidated company the right to construct the "Valley Railroad" from Harrisburg to near Salem, &c.

After a prolonged discussion on this amendment by several Senators, on motion of Mr. Strother the main question was ordered; and the amendment of Mr. Keen was adopted—ayes, 14; noes, 11.

On motion of Mr. Belew, the bill was further amended by adding a proviso requiring the said consolidated company to construct a branch from some suitable point on said railroad to New Market, in Shenandoah county, provided the citizens of said town and vicinity shall subscribe \$10,000 to be applied to the construction of said branch.

On motion of Mr. Trout, the bill was laid on the table.

In the debate on "consolidating," Mr. Dulany said the "Manassas stock owned by the State yielded no dividend, and there was no hope of it in the future. The union of the road with the Orange road would secure its re-opening and completion, and thus confer an immense benefit on the people of the country through which it passes.

Mr. Marshall, who has been connected with the Manassas road from its very inception, is in favor of its transfer—and I very here permitted to say that no man in our section has more unwaveringly, and with greater ability, devoted himself to its interests, and entitled himself to the highest appreciation of all the people who live in the region of country to be benefited by this valuable improvement."

CONGRESS.—After the tabling of Mr. Chandler's resolution, an account of which is given in another place, the Senate, yesterday passed the invalid pension bill. The Postoffice Appropriation bill was passed. The Constitutional amendment offered by Mr. Wade, providing that no person shall be eligible to the office of President of the United States for more than one term, was taken up and discussed. It was finally laid aside, and the bill to amend the Postal laws (returned from the House) was taken up, amended and passed.

In the House of Representatives, the committee on the Library was instructed to inquire into the propriety of purchasing Carpenter's picture of the reading of the Emancipation Proclamation. The Committee on Claims was instructed to inquire whether any commission is now in session in Washington city for the purpose of considering claims of citizens of the Southern States for property taken for the use of the U. S. Army, and if so, by what authority. A resolution was agreed to, declaring that, in the opinion of this House, the Government of the United States should prosecute the claims of the citizens against Great Britain for losses sustained during the war, by reason of British aid to the Confederate States, with the same energy and determination as was exercised by the British Government in relation to the capture of Mason and Slidell.

The Committee on Public Expenditures made a report of so much of their investigation as related to the Boston Custom House. The clerk of the House was directed to pay to the order of the Judiciary Committee such sum, not exceeding ten thousand dollars, as may be necessary to enable the committee to complete the investigation of the cases now before it. A bill was introduced by Mr. Eliot providing for a Provisional Governor and Council for Louisiana. After a good deal of discussion and some filibustering, the main question was ordered to be put by a vote of 85 yeas to 59 nays. A motion was then made to adjourn, with the understanding that Mr. Eliot's bill shall be taken up to-day.

The motion was agreed to, and the House adjourned.

From Mexico—Important if True.

Advices from the Rio Grande to the 7th instant, and from Mexico to the 2d, represent that Gen. Ortega was sent to Monterey under guard, to be tried by court-martial; that Juarez had already arrived there, and that during the rejoicings consequent upon that event, Miramon, at the head of some two thousand Imperialist troops, appeared before that city; that Juarez hastily abandoned it and was pursued and captured, together with his suite and a train laden with three quarters of a million in silver. The Liberal chiefs are said to be in a very vacillating mood of mind, whilst the Imperialists are acting with great vigor on the offensive. [We do not know what reliance is to be placed in these reports.]

PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT FOR LOUISIANA.—There was quite a hubbub in the House yesterday over the bill introduced by Mr. Eliot, of Mass., from New Orleans Riots Investigating Committee, providing for the appointment of a provisional government for Louisiana, to take the place of the present State government. The bill provides for the appointment of a Provisional Governor and Council of nine by the President, with the advice and consent of the Senate, all of which appointments shall be able to take the oath. An election shall be called for the 7th of June, at which all loyal persons without distinction of color, shall vote for Governor and Legislature. Confederate soldiers who did not enter the army voluntarily, are allowed to vote. The motion for the previous question on the bill was carried, but filibustering tactics were resorted to against putting the question on the passage of the bill, and at 3 p. m. it seemed not improbable that the bill would go over until to-morrow and be printed, and that debate would be resumed on the reconstruction military government bill.—Washington Star.

Gen. Early's Account of his March on Washington

The Richmond Examiner prints from advance sheets of Jubal Early's "Last Year of the War" the following account of his demonstration on Washington:

"The rapid marching which had broken down a number of the men who were bareheaded or weakened by previous exposure, and I had been left in the Valley and directed to be collected at Winchester, and the losses in killed and wounded at Harper's Ferry, Maryland Heights, and Monocacy, had reduced my infantry to about eight thousand men. Of those remaining, a very large number were greatly exhausted by the last two days' marching, some having fallen by sunstroke, and I was satisfied, when we arrived in front of the fortifications, that not more than one-third of my force could have been carried into action. I had about forty pieces of field artillery, of which the largest were twelve-pounder Napoleons, besides a few pieces of horse artillery with the cavalry. McCausland reported the works on the Georgetown pike too strongly manned for him to assault. We could not move to the right or the left without its being discovered from a signal station on the top of the 'Soldiers' Home,' which overlooked the country, and the enemy would have been enabled to move in his works to meet us.

Under the circumstances, to have rushed my men blindly against the fortifications, without understanding the state of things, would have been worse than folly. If we had any friends in Washington, none of them came out to give us information, and this satisfied me that the place was not undefended. I knew that troops had arrived from Grant's army, for prisoners had been captured from Ricketts' division of the Sixth corps at Monocacy. From Sharpsburg I had sent a message to Mosby by one of his men, requesting him to cross the Potomac and below Harper's Ferry, cut the railroad and telegraph, and endeavor to find out the condition of things in Washington; but he had not crossed the river, and I had received no information from him. A Northern paper which was obtained gave the information that Hunter, after moving up the Ohio river in steamboats, was passing over the Baltimore and Ohio railroad, and I knew that he would be at Harper's Ferry as soon as Inboden had done very little damage to the road west of Marlinton.

After dark on the 11th I held a consultation with Major General Breckinridge, Rodes, Gordon and Ransom, in which I stated to them the danger of remaining where we were, and the necessity of doing something immediately, as the probability was that the passes of the Potomac Mountain and the fords of the Upper Potomac would soon be closed against us. After interchanging views with them, being very reluctant to abandon the project of capturing Washington, I determined to make an assault on the enemy's works at daylight next morning, unless some information should be received before that time showing its impracticability, and so informed these officers. During the night a dispatch was received from General Bradley Johnson from near Baltimore, informing me that he had received information, from a reliable source, that two corps had arrived from General Grant's army, and that his whole army was probably in motion. This caused me to delay the attack until I could examine the works again, and as soon as it was light enough to see, I rode to the front and found the parapets lined with troops. I had, therefore, reluctantly to give up all hopes of capturing Washington after I had arrived in sight of the dome of the Capitol, and given the Federal authorities a terrible fright.

Grant, in his report, says in regard to the condition of things when I moved towards Washington: "The garrisons of Baltimore and Washington were at this time made up of heavy artillery regiments, hundred days' men, and detachments from the invalid corps." And, in regard to the force of Wallace at Monocacy, he says: "His force was not sufficient to insure success, but he fought the enemy nevertheless, and although it resulted in defeat to our arms, yet it detained the enemy and thereby served to enable Gen. Wright to reach Washington with two divisions of the Sixth corps, and the Army of the Potomac, consisting of the Sixth corps, under General Wright; a part of the Eighth corps, under General Gilmore, and a part of the Nineteenth corps, just arrived from New Orleans, under General Emory."

Taking Grant's statement of the troops which had arrived from his army as the most reliable, they were sufficient to hold the works against my troops, at least until others could arrive. But, in addition to those which had already arrived, there were the detachments from the invalid corps, called, I believe, the "Veteran Reserves," (of which, I was informed, there were about five thousand,) the heavy artillery regiments, the hundred-days' men, and, I suppose, the part of the Eighth corps mentioned by Stanton. To all these may be added the local troops, or militia, and the Government employees. Some of the Northern papers stated that between Saturday and Monday I could have entered the city; but Saturday I was fighting at Monocacy, thirty-five miles from Washington, a force which I could not leave in my rear and after disposing of that force, and moving as rapidly as it was possible for me to move, I did not arrive in front of the fortifications until afternoon on Monday, and then my troops were exhausted, and it required time to bring them up into line. I had then made a march, over the circuitous route by Charlottesville, Lynchburg, and Salem, down the valley, and through the passes of the South Mountain, which, notwithstanding the delays in dealing with Hunter's, Sigel's, and Wallace's forces, is, for its length and rapidity, I believe without a parallel in this or any other modern war—the unopposed marching expedition of the Iron Horse from the Potomac to the city of Washington. My small force had been thrown up to the very walls of the Federal Capital, north of a river which could not be forded at any point within forty miles, and with a heavy force and the South Mountain in my rear, the passes through which mountain could be held by a small number of troops.

A glance at the map, when it is recollected that the Potomac is a wide river, and navigable to Washington for the largest vessels, will cause the intelligent reader to wonder not why I failed to take Washington, but why I had the audacity to approach it as I did, with the small force under my command. It was supposed by some, who were not informed of the facts, that I delayed in the Lower Valley longer than was necessary; but an examination of the foregoing narrative will show that not one moment was spent in idleness, but that every one was employed in making some arrangement, or removing some difficulty in my way, which it was necessary to make or remove, so as to enable me to advance with a prospect of success.

FOREIGN NEWS.—The Atlantic Cable reports that it has been officially announced by the officers of the Anglo-American Telegraph Company that on and after the 1st day of March next, the rates by the cable will be reduced one-half. The King of Prussia has closed the Diet. He returned his thanks to that body for the cordial assistance extended him, and strongly hoped for German unity.—He also pointed out the necessity for a permanent peace at home and abroad. The King and his speech were enthusiastically received by the people.

The English papers announce the death of Mr. George Baxter, the inventor and patentee of oil color printing.

GOLD.

New York, Feb. 12—Gold, to-day, 136½.

THE DEBT OF ALEXANDRIA—

"WHAT SHALL WE DO WITH IT?"—The present condition and future prospects of Alexandria demand at this time a careful and candid consideration, and any citizen who can suggest a mode by which we may be relieved in a measure from the heavy burdens imposed upon us should have a patient hearing, whether his views are adopted or condemned. In order to invite public attention to the subject, and indicate some plan for immediate action, let us first ascertain the actual state of affairs. The temporary prosperity of the city, incident to a state of war, has passed, and we are now left to struggle, as before, relying merely upon the natural advantages of our location, but with competition for our reduced trade far more formidable than ever, in consequence of the "close connections" allowed to be made with our works of improvement.

Many of our leading merchants have established themselves in rival cities, numbers of mechanics have been compelled to leave, and unless with the opening of the Spring business revives, we will find our prospects still darker at the end of the year.

This state of affairs may in some degree be owing to the agitation in the political world, but a readier solution may be found in the oppressive debt hanging over the city, and the onerous taxes Federal, State and Corporation, imposed upon us, with our banks insolvent, commerce depressed, and the most enterprising merchants crippled in resources or utterly ruined, nearly the whole burden falling with crushing weight upon the limited number engaged in business, and upon real estate, impoverishing alike the landlord and tenant.

The exact amount of taxes to be paid the present year cannot be ascertained.

Cardinal estimates have however been made, and the following statement may be relied upon as, in the aggregate, below the real amount:

State taxes and licenses.....\$25,000

County levy.....12,000

U. S. Revenue.....50,000

Interest on Corporation debt.....78,000

Expenses of Corporation, Collecting taxes, &c.....35,000

Aggregate.....\$200,000

To this should be added a large amount lost by insolvency, and the inability of many to pay levies or taxes, and which therefore increases the burden upon men engaged in business, and owning real estate. Can the people pay this large amount without utter ruin to themselves? Let each one answer from his own experience.

From the Federal and State taxes, (the latter in all probability to be largely increased by the present Legislature) there is no escape.—The only portion we can control in some degree is that laid by the Corporation.

To effect this object let the same rigid economy be introduced into the affairs of the Corporation as we have been compelled to exercise in our families. Let the salaries of the Corporation officers be reduced to the lowest possible amount for which we can obtain the services of competent men, without regard to the persons holding them. The terms of the present incumbents expire in March, and if the candidates are not satisfied with the salary proposed they can decline an election. Let some of the offices be dispensed with entirely, or consolidated with others.

Justice to ourselves and the creditors of the Corporation demands this course.

Without going into details let us instance one or two cases. It is well-known that the legitimate duties of the Mayor (provided he will confine himself to them) will not occupy him, on an average, more than one hour a day, and do not interfere with the successful prosecution of any other business. It would therefore seem that \$400 per annum would be an ample compensation—even if required, as he should be, to pay over all fees of office into the treasury.

Formerly when there was one body known as the Common Council, the duties of the Auditor and Clerk of Council were performed by one person, for about \$500. Now the Auditor receives \$600 and the Clerk of Council \$500.—Let it be understood that the Auditor shall be ex-officio Clerk of the Council, at an annual salary of \$500, and there are numbers of qualified persons who will eagerly seek those offices. So in regard to other places which will readily recur to any one. We can then reorganize a more efficient police system for day and night duty, pay them a suitable compensation, and diminish the expenses of the city government. This retrenchment being effected, and having taken one step towards doing justice to our creditors there will remain something still to be accomplished.

A large portion of our Corporation stock was purchased by its present holders at a heavy discount. Estimating the actual cost to them in money and taking into consideration the fact that they have received interest on the stock at par, they can stand a large abatement without serious loss. At the present time this stock can scarcely be said to have a marketable value, and if the process of funding goes on, and the interest is not regularly paid it must continue to diminish in value. It is therefore to the interest of the stockholders, as well as the Corporation that a compromise should be made. Will the creditors consent to this?

A large portion of them would do so readily, if assured that the interest on the reduced stock could and would be hereafter, promptly paid. Some, of course, would demand the "pound of flesh," or the last dollar of principle and interest. To force these, application should at once be made to the Legislature, to stay the collection of taxes on account of interest on the Corporation Debt, for three years, but with authority to the City Council to issue new bonds at the rate of 60 per cent on the dollar to such holders of stock as would accept the same, in exchange for the old bonds, and to levy a tax for the payment of interest thereon, and also, to provide a sinking fund for the redemption of the debt. A portion, but it is probable a very small number might refuse to accede to this plan, but a large majority would be compelled to do so, and in any event it would give us a "breathing spell" within which our State will have recovered from the ravages of war, and we shall be able to sustain a heavier burden.

To this proposition some will exclaim: Repudiation! Be not frightened at this. If it be Repudiation, then Virginia has partially repudiated for the past two years, and is now preparing to scale the interest on her public debt.

If this be Repudiation then some of the most honorable citizens of Alexandria, have, by compromising with their creditors, done this very thing. If, however, the honor of States and individuals is not tarnished, when compelled by a stern necessity to make a compromise, how can it be charged that the city of Alexandria, whose resources are so much less in proportion to her obligations than either the State or individuals, be charged with Repudiation.—Let such a suggestion be "whistled down the wind."

This subject in its legal and other aspects might be more fully elaborated and may be again resorted to, as it embraces the vital interest of this community and has an important bearing upon its future welfare. If successfully carried out, it would greatly reduce the tax now bearing so heavily upon our trade and industry.

Without claiming any originality for this plan, to which I am not particularly wedded, if a better can be matured, and in order that these suggestions may have only such weight as my friends may attach to my opinion, and with no personal motive in view, I have felt it my duty to sign my name to this communication.

CHARLES E. STUART.

FORRETT—A DWELLING HOUSE

On the south side of Cameron st., between St. Asaph and Washington, now occupied by Dr. Janney. Possession given April 1st, 1897. Apply to [No 12-069] B. M. SMITH.

FOUNDERS AND MACHINISTS.

G. W. JAMIESON. C. H. COLLINS.

JAMIESON & COLLINS.

Iron and Brass Founders,

COR. ROYAL & WILKES STREETS,

ALEXANDRIA, VA.

Castings of every description made at short notice.

Cash paid for old Iron and Brass. Jan 17-18

GAS AND STEAM FITTING.

WM. COGAN,

15, NORTH ROYAL STREET,

Has constantly on hand a large and complete assortment of

CHANDLERS,

BRACKETS,

HARPS,

PENDENTS,

STATIONARY AND PORTABLE DROP

LIGHTS IN VARIETY.

PORCELAINS,

PHOTOGRAPH,

MICA,

and other SHADES;

CUT, GROUND AND PLAIN GLASSES;

ALSO,

STEAM PIPE, GAGES, COCKS, VALVES,

and everything in the Steam Fitting Line.

Public Buildings and Dwellings furnished and fitted up with gas in the most substantial and elegant manner.

Steam Work for Factories, Mills, &c., promptly and faithfully executed; all at prices which will give satisfaction.

WILLIAM S. MOORE,

MACHINIST.

Corner Royal & Wilkes st., & No. 65, Union st.,

ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA.

Is prepared to execute orders for STEAM

ENGINES, MILL GEARING, ORNAMENTAL

RAILING, AND MACHINE WORK of

every description.

CASTINGS made at short notice, and on

reasonable terms. Je 25-6m

PHILIP PARK.

PRACTICAL PLUMBER.

N. E. corner Prince and Pitt streets.

The oldest and best established PLUMBING

ESTABLISHMENT in the city. All work

done with dispatch, and in the most durable

and workmanlike manner.

Satisfaction guaranteed.

JOBBING done at short notice, and by him-

self, or the most experienced workmen.

See 1

SEASONABLE ARTICLES.

Burnett's Flavoring Essences or Extracts,

Burnett's Colored Cocoa, Kallistone's Asthma

Remedy, Toilet Cases, Oriental Tooth Wash,

Essence Vanilla, Portenon's Fancy Soap,

Kendall's Amelyne, Sterling's Ambrosia, Su-

perior French Blacking, Upham's Hair Dye,

Emul de Paris Toilet Powders, Pomades, Co-

logne, Preparations for the Hair, Water Colors

in Boxes, Hair Brushes, Dressing Combs, Cor-

ruging Fluid, Hair Glasses, Hagan's Magnolia

Balm, Lucida Extractions, Hair Restorer, Bay

Rum, Sazonol, Depilatory Powders, American

Hair Glasses, Balm of Water Lily, White Vir-

gin Wine of Antilles, Balm of 1,000 Flowers,

Thompson's Tooth Soap, Lily White, Hair

Brushes, Hair Brushes and Combs; all the dif-

ferent varieties of Hair Restorer, Lyon's Kad-

idion, &c., for sale by

HENRY COOK,

22 and 224, King st.

See 22

NEW GOODS.

Refined and Brown Sugars,

Silver Spring Flour,

Columbia Mills "

Choice Uncovered Hams,

Breast Pieces Bacon,

Shoulder "

Middling "

No. 1 Mackerel,

New Cod-Fish,

Dobbin's and other Soaps, &c., for sale by

J. C. MILBURN,

Opposite the Market.

See 10—

REDUCTION IN PRICES!

As the season is far advanced for the sale of

Dress Goods, we will offer great inducements to

our friends.

Our stock of DRESS GOODS embraces all

most every desirable style and color, among

which are something entirely new in French

trains. Our French Merinos are held at prices

as low, if not lower, than they were before the

war. We have just received a large accession

to our stock of

VIRGINIA CASSIMERES,

which will be sold at such prices as we feel sure

will give satisfaction.

See 21—

WITMER & SLAYMAKER.

LAMPS, LAMP GOODS & OIL.

WM. COGAN,

15, North Royal Street,

offers for sale Lamps in great variety, from the

best of Tom Thumb, to the most magnificent Par-

lor Lamp, Cut, Ground and Plain Globes;

Chimneys, all kinds and sizes, Brushes, Wick,

and all other goods in the trade, at the most rea-

sonable prices. Especial attention is called to

large lot of Stand Lamps just received, purchas-

ed at extremely low figures, and offered at cor-

responding rates. All who want real bargains

in handsome Parlor and Table Lamps had bet-

ter come quickly. mh 8-17

VARIETIES! VARIETIES!!

Just received at

N. E. CORNER KING & PRINCE STS.

CLOAK and DRESS BUTTONS, Buckle

and other trimmings for Dresses, Black and

colored Velvet Ribbons, White Cord, and Cord

and Tassels for infants Cloaks, Stamped Em-

broideries, Silk Cotton and Linen and Stair

Embroidery Braids, Knitting Cottons all num-

bers, White and Colored Yarns, Hosiery in

great variety, Lace and Linen Collars, Silk

Belted, Kid and other Gloves, Linen Cambric

Handkerchiefs for Ladies and Gents, with a

great variety of other articles, which I will sell

at reduced prices. no 8—

ALEXANDRIA, LOUBOURE